

TRIBUTE TO DR. KRISTAPS KEGGI

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to honor Dr. Kristaps Keggi. Dr. Keggi is the epitome of the American dream. He was born in Riga, Latvia, and survived World War II as a child. He escaped communism on a refugee ship to immigrate to the United States. When he landed on the docks of Manhattan, he would go on to finish high school and attend college and medical school. He graduated from Yale University in 1955 and from Yale University School of Medicine in 1959.

Eight years after he arrived in the U.S., he raised his right hand and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. He joined the U.S. Army Medical Service and Medical Corps. Dr. Keggi served as the orthopedic surgery chief in the Third Mobile Army Surgical Hospital—MASH—in Vietnam from September 1965 to June 1966. This was the first MASH unit stood up and the first to deploy to Vietnam. The 3rd MASH supported the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, and countless other units. He left the Army with the rank of captain. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign of Wars.

Dr. Keggi's service did not stop after Vietnam. His battlefield experience sharpened his skills. He would go on to train generations of orthopedic surgeons and win worldwide acclaim for orthopedic education and innovation. I credit much of my success as an orthopedic surgeon and in life to training under Dr. Keggi.

Dr. Keggi is the founder and the president of the Keggi Orthopedic Foundation and Orthopedic Exchange Program between the United States and the former Soviet Republics. This program has fostered hundreds of fellows in exchanges in Latvia and Russia. He even mentored the former President of Latvia who was a fellow orthopedic surgeon.

He holds memberships in many scholarly societies such as American Orthopedic Association, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, Society for Arthritic Joint Surgery, and Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, just to highlight a few.

He has published over 135 scholarly articles on orthopedic medical treatments. He was the senior author of the seminal American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Instructional Course on "Early Care of Severe War Wounds" on how battlefield wounds should be treated. He pioneered and popularized the less invasive anterior surgical approach used for total hip replacement. Dr. Keggi has been recognized by Best Doctors in America starting in 1996. He was named in America's Top Surgeons in 2009 through 2017.

Dr. Keggi has volunteered for many charitable endeavors and has been recognized globally for his contributions to medical science and humanity. He was honored by his hometown of Waterbury, CT, and the Waterbury Vet-

erans Memorial Committee for his lifetime of service working with and treating patients with the wounds of war. In 2020, Dr. Keggi was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

Dr. Keggi's service embodies everything our country stands for. Every opportunity he has been given in the U.S., he has given back in full. My wife Bobbi and I thank him today for his life of service to our military, our veterans, and our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING THE GRAND OL' OPRY'S 5000TH SATURDAY NIGHT BROADCAST

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I think I speak for all Tennesseans when I confess that, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, I craved the comfort of familiarity. I laid newer books and albums aside in favor of well-worn classics so close to my heart that they, in and of themselves, were cherished memories. We lost so much during that lonely time, but through it all, at least one thing remained constant.

Every Saturday night, when I tuned my radio to 650 AM WSM, I heard the fiddles and steel guitars that have welcomed music lovers into the Grand Ol' Opry's circle of friends for the past 95 years.

On October 30, 2021, the Grand Ol' Opry will celebrate its historic 5000th Saturday night broadcast. As most country music lovers will tell you, Saturday at the Opry is more than just an "experience;" it is the foundation of the format's legacy and the endgame for those who come to Nashville, TN, seeking their place within the ranks of country music's legends. The Saturday broadcast has been on the airwaves longer than any other broadcast program of any medium anywhere in the world. It thrived through its expansion from radio to television and then to digital streaming platforms. It has survived the Great Depression, World War II, multiple global conflicts, civil unrest, devastating natural disasters, and, now, a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic.

For 7 months during the spring, summer, and fall of 2020, while life outside the Grand Ol' Opry House ground to a halt, a dedicated skeleton crew of producers, stagehands, and performers came together to create a socially distanced broadcast that was just as welcoming and heartfelt as anything a live audience would expect to see. Today, thankfully, the fans are back in their seats, and those who don't make the pilgrimage to Music City tune in from home with a newfound appreciation for the gift of live music.

It is my privilege to memorialize the Opry's ongoing commitment to artistry and entertainment and to honor every single person who worked so hard, against such odds, to bring coun-

try music into our homes when we could not seek it out for ourselves. On behalf of the entire Tennessee congressional delegation, I thank you for helping us maintain our bond with the past, our hope for the future, and our belief in the power of music to comfort and inspire when all else seems lost.●

RECOGNIZING DAYSPRING

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to DaySpring on 50 years of sharing God's love through creativity and expression.

DaySpring, a Christian cards and e-cards, boxed cards, inspirational gifts, home decor, and art company, calls Siloam Springs, AR, home to its world headquarters. We are tremendously proud to host this faith-based industry in the Natural State and benefit from all the stirring and encouraging work it does.

The commitment and continued dedication DaySpring and its employees display in sharing their Christian faith through uplifting, inspirational, and prayerful formats is a testament to the role faith plays in their mission. In a time where deep divisions exist within our country, its hopeful messages are a powerful and effective reminder to choose kindness. The work it does brings Americans together and prompts us to recall that we are all created in God's image and loved by our Creator. I am so appreciative for its passion to spread God's love as well as the beauty and sincerity that characterizes the products it so thoughtfully creates to deliver that message.

We are very pleased to have witnessed what DaySpring has accomplished over the last five decades. Because of its hard, intentional work to reach people with God's word, I am certain more people are leading a life devoted to Christ. With a vision to "see every person experience and express the life-changing message of God's love," the company has charted a path that has kept it focused, relevant, and undeniably impactful.

As Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." DaySpring's staff has certainly followed that admonition each and every day for 50 years. In the years ahead, I encourage them to continue inspiring us to look to our Heavenly Father, and to love and help one another along the way.

Americans, now more than ever, are in need of this hopeful and sincere message. I am confident the guidance and direction consistently provided by DaySpring will be instrumental as we continue teaching and sharing God's word in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JON AND CAROL MIELKE

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, every October, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute—CCAI—